



An investigation of the long term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education and clinical development of Diagnostic/Therapeutic Radiography students in Northern Ireland.

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Title: An investigation of the long term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education and clinical development of Diagnostic/Therapeutic Radiography students in Northern Ireland.

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DISCLOSURES

- Nothing to disclose

BACKGROUND

- COVID-19 impact on the education/clinical placement of students ¹
- Universities using online/remote delivery
 - Limited face to face delivery
- Clinical placement of undergraduates

Aim

- To explore the impact of COVID-19 on radiography education and clinical development in Northern Ireland.

METHODOLOGY

- Online survey using Qualtrics platform
- Students at Ulster University invited to participate via email
- Data collected at three timepoints across one academic year (2020/2021)
- Analysed using SPSS Version 25 and NVivo 12

RESULTS

- 89, 79, 61 and 20, 26, 21 Diagnostic (D) and Therapeutic (T) students completed the survey at three different TP's respectively (across three years of the programme).
- The majority of respondents were in the university at TP's 1-3 whilst an average of 18% of D and 23% of T respectively were on clinical placement.

Figure 1a and b: Impact of COVID-19 on Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging students' academic experiences (%) at Time 1 and Time 2.

Figure 1a: Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging

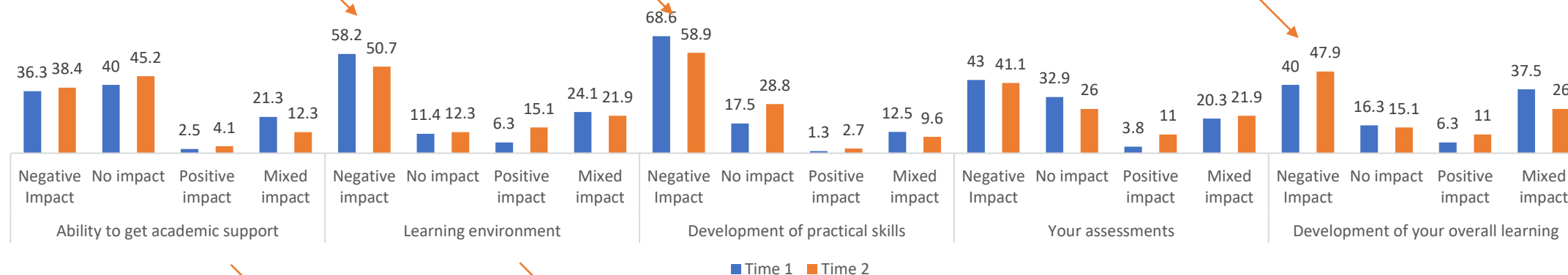


Figure 1b: Radiotherapy and Oncology

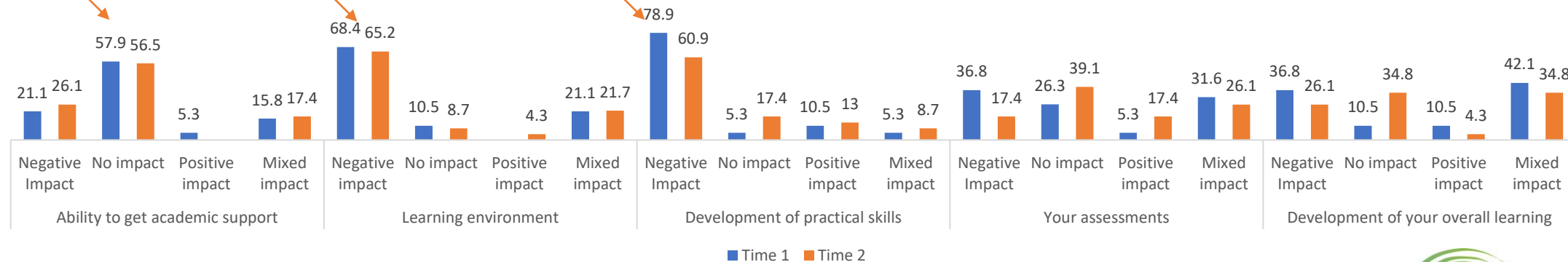


Figure 2a: Impact of COVID-19 on students' clinical placement experiences and 2b : skills (%) at Time 1, Time 2 and Time 3 (Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging)

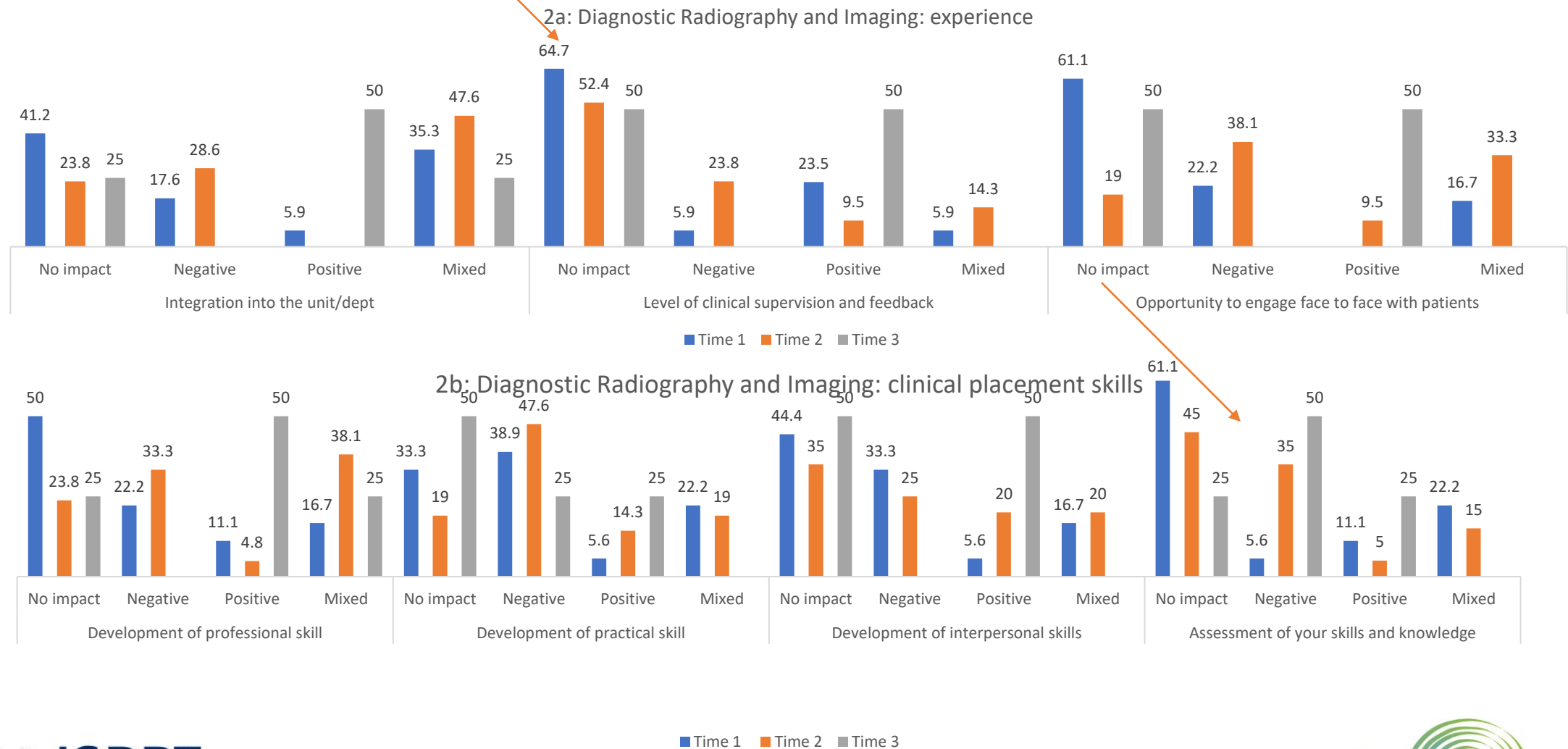


Figure 3a: Impact of COVID-19 on students' clinical placement experiences and 3b: skills (%) at Time 2 and Time 3 (Radiotherapy and Oncology). * no students on placement at Time 1

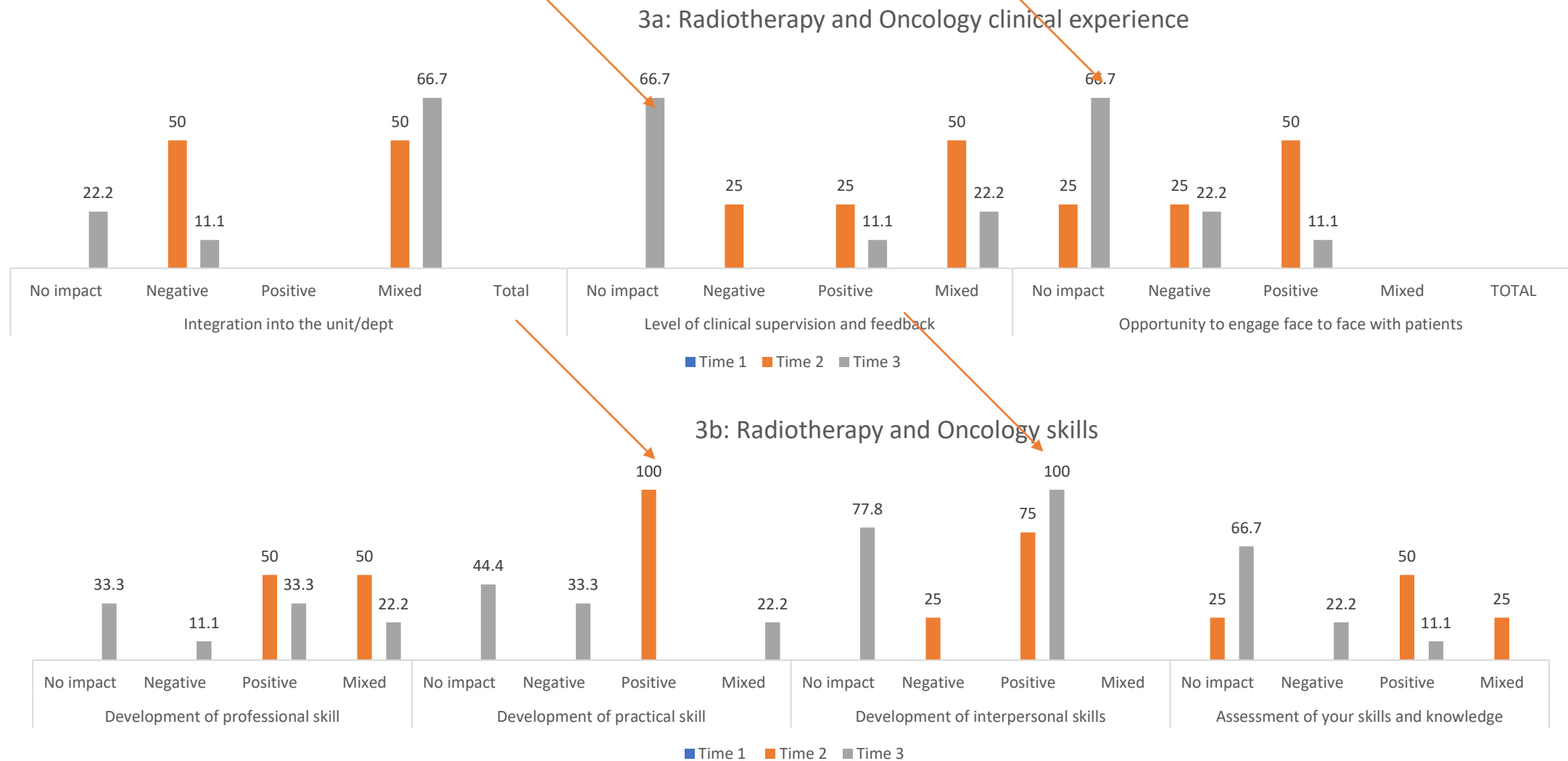


Figure 4: Students (%) thoughts and feelings about the vaccine at Time 3.

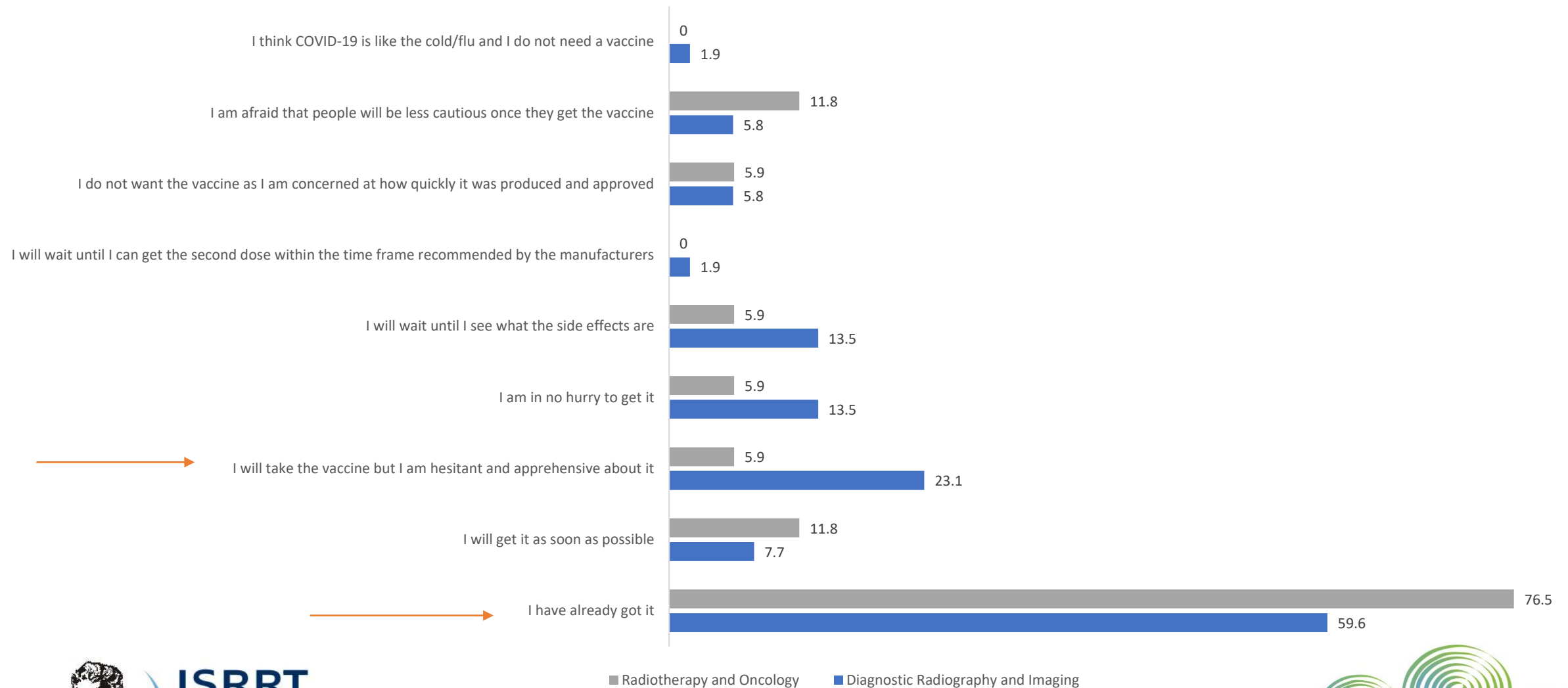
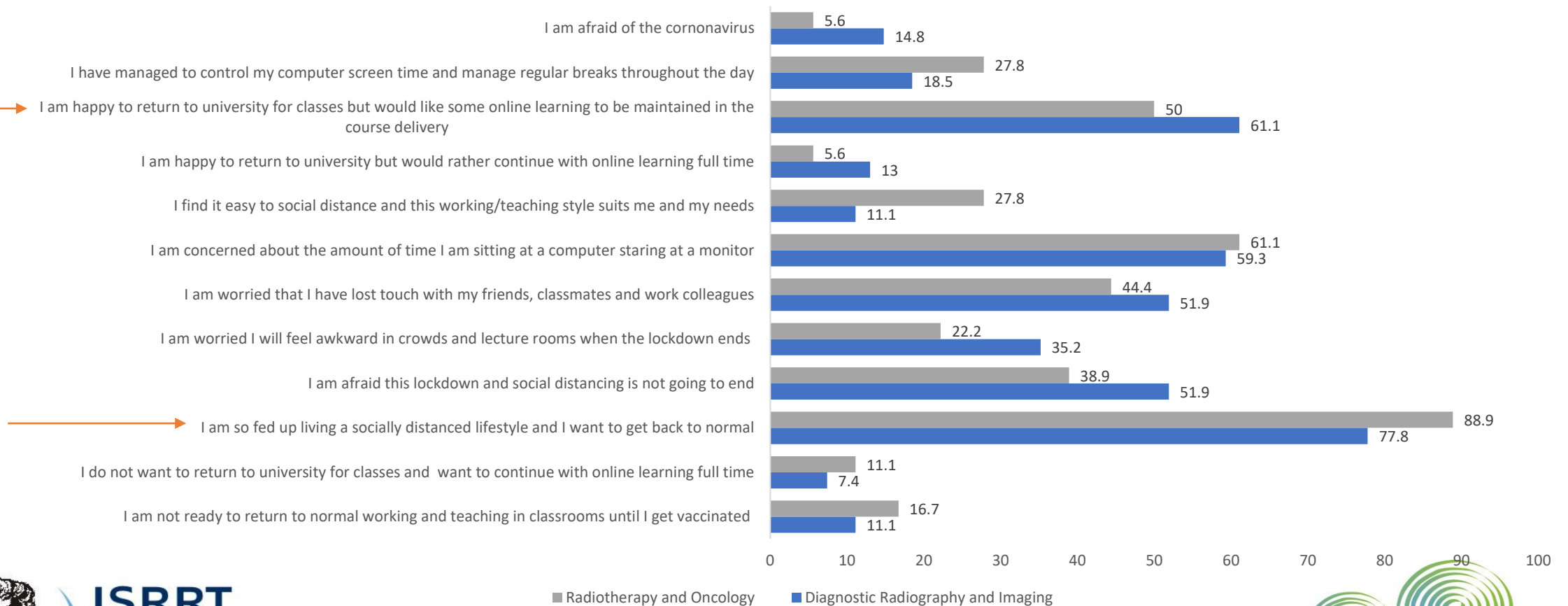


Figure 5: Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging and Radiotherapy and Oncology Students (%) opinions after living with COVID-19 for one year at T3



DISCUSSION

- The negative impact of COVID in terms of making and maintaining friendships and mental wellbeing increased slightly over the 3 timepoints
- Increased burden of student workload
- COVID 19 had no impact or a positive impact on choice of career
- Some positive impacts with flexible learning
- By TP3 students had adapted to synchronous and non-synchronous remote learning -preferring teaching delivered via university and remote learning combined

CONCLUSION

- Radiography students quickly adapted to remote delivery of lectures
- Blended learning with some synchronous online delivery should be maintained in the post COVID-19 world
- We need to continue to support and invest in our workforce of the future

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